

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please insert as a separate paragraph on page 1, before line 1.

This application is a Divisional Application of U.S. Serial No. 09/842,162 filed on April 26, 2001, pending.

Please replace the paragraph at page 7, line 19 through page 8, line 12.

~~5. A~~ In a crosslinked rubber particle ~~according to Claim 1, wherein~~
~~said~~ the conjugated diene forming said conjugated diene unit (a) is at least one selected from 1,3-butadiene, 2,3-dimethyl-1,3-butadiene, isoprene and chloroprene;
said aromatic vinyl forming said aromatic vinyl unit (b) is at least one selected from styrene, 2-methylstyrene, 3-methylstyrene, 4-methylstyrene, α -methylstyrene, 2,4-dimethylstyrene, 2,4-diisopropylstyrene, 4-tert-butylstyrene and tert-butoxystyrene; and,
said monomer forming said monomer unit (c) having at least two polymerizable unsaturated groups is at least one selected from ethylene glycol di(meth)acrylate, propylene glycol di(meth)acrylate, 1,4-butanediol di(meth)acrylate, 1,6-hexanediol di(meth)acrylate, trimethylolpropane di(meth)acrylate, trimethylolpropane tri(meth)acrylate, pentaerythritol tri(meth)acrylate, pentaerythritol tetra(meth)acrylate, divinylbenzene, diisopropenylbenzene and trivinylbenzene.

Please replace the paragraph on page 9, line 12 through page 11, line 5.

~~9.~~ A rubber composition comprising:

[1] at least one crosslinked rubber particle selected from:

(1) a crosslinked rubber particle comprising as repeating units (a) 30 to 94.89 % by weight of a conjugated diene unit, (b) 5 to 69.89 % by weight of an aromatic vinyl unit, (c) 0.01 to 10 % by weight of a monomer unit having at least two polymerizable unsaturated

group and (d) 0.1 to 30 % by weight of a monomer unit having one polymerizable unsaturated group and at least one functional group selected from an amino group, a hydroxyl group and an epoxy group [the total amount of (a), (b), (c) and (d) is 100 by weight] and having a particle size of 10 to 500 nm and a toluene-insolubles of 80 % by weight or more;

(2) a crosslinked rubber particle comprising as repeating units (a) 30 to 94.89 % by weight of a conjugated diene unit, (b) 5 to 69.89 % by weight of an aromatic vinyl unit, (c) 0.01 to 10 % by weight of a monomer unit having at least two polymerizable unsaturated group and (e) 0.1 to 30 % by weight of a monomer unit having one polymerizable unsaturated group and a carboxylic group (CO_2H and/or CO_2^-) [the total amount of (a), (b), (c) and (e) is 100 % by weight] and having a particle size of 10 to 500 nm and a toluene-insolubles of 80 % by weight or more; and,

(3) a crosslinked rubber particle comprising as repeating units (a) 30 to 94.99 % by weight of a conjugated diene unit, (b) 5 to 69.99 % by weight of an aromatic vinyl unit and (c) 0.01 to 10 % by weight of a monomer unit having at least two polymerizable unsaturated group [the total amount of (a), (b) and (c) is 100 % by weight] and having a particle size of 10 to 500 nm and a toluene-insolubles of 80 % by weight or more; and,

[2] a non-crosslinked rubber component whose toluene-insolubles is less than 20 % by weight,

wherein said non-crosslinked rubber component is at least one selected from (A) a polymer consisting of as a repeating unit only a conjugated diene unit, (B) a polymer which comprises as repeating units a conjugated diene unit and an aromatic vinyl unit and whose conjugated diene unit has a 1,4-trans content of 55 % or less, (C) a polymer comprising as repeating units a conjugated diene unit and an α, β -unsaturated nitrile unit, (D) an acrylic rubber and (E) a polymer comprising as repeating units an ethylene unit and an α -olefin unit having 3 to 12 carbon atoms.

Please replace the paragraph on page 11, lines 6-23 with the following paragraph.

~~10. A~~ In a rubber composition ~~according to Claim 9, wherein~~

~~said~~ the conjugated diene forming said conjugated diene unit (a) is at least one selected from 1,3-butadiene, 2,3-dimethyl-1,3-butadiene, isoprene and chloroprene;

said aromatic vinyl forming said aromatic vinyl unit (b) is at least one selected from styrene, 2-methylstyrene, 3-methylstyrene, 4-methylstyrene, α -methylstyrene, 2,4-demethylstyrene, 2,4-diisopropylstyrene, 4-tert-butylstyrene and tert-butoxystyrene; and,

said monomer forming said monomer unit (c) having at least two polymerizable unsaturated groups is at least one selected from ethylene glycol di(meth)acrylate, propylene glycol di(meth)acrylate, 1,4-butanediol di(meth)acrylate, 1,6-hexanediol di(meth)acrylate, trimethylolpropane di(meth)acrylate, trimethylolpropane tri(meth)acrylate, pentaerythritol tri(meth)acrylate, pentaerythritol tetra(meth)acrylate, divinylbenzene, diisopropenylbenzene and trivinylbenzene.

Please replace the paragraph on page 13, lines 5-22 with the following paragraph.

~~16. A~~ In a rubber composition ~~according to Claim 15, wherein~~

~~said~~ the conjugated diene forming said conjugated diene unit (a) is at least one selected from 1,3-butadiene, 2,3-dimethyl-1,3-butadiene, isoprene and chloroprene;

said aromatic vinyl forming said aromatic vinyl unit (b) is at least one selected from styrene, 2-methylstyrene, 3-methylstyrene, 4-methylstyrene, α -methylstyrene, 2,4-demethylstyrene, 2,4-diisopropylstyrene, 4-tert-butylstyrene and tert-butoxystyrene; and,

said monomer forming said monomer unit (c) having at least two polymerizable unsaturated groups is at least one selected from ethylene glycol di(meth)acrylate, propylene glycol di(meth)acrylate, 1,4-butanediol di(meth)acrylate, 1,6-hexanediol di(meth)acrylate,

trimethylolpropane di(meth)acrylate, trimethylolpropane tri(meth)acrylate, pentaerythritol tri(meth)acrylate, pentaerythritol tetra(meth)acrylate, divinylbenzene, diisopropenylbenzene and trivinylbenzene.